## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

X	
MASTEC NORTH AMERICA, INC.	
Employer,	
and	
MIGUEL R. VARGAS, AN INDIVIDUAL	Case No: 01-RD-130917
Petitioner,	
and	
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 488, AFL-CIO,	
Union,	
X	

## EMPLOYER'S REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO HOLD THE PETITION FOR DECERTIFICATION IN ABEYANCE

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Page

	Table of Authorities	. ii
I.	Table of Authorities	1
II.	STATEMENT OF THE CASE	2
III.	STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE	4
IV.	ARGUMENT	4
A	. THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO HOLD THE DECERTIFICATION	
P.	ETITION IN ABEYANCE PENDING THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNFAIR LABOR	
P	RACTICE CHARGE IS CONTRARY TO BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURE	4
В	THE ACT'S POLICY OF ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES' EMPLOYEES	
A	BILITY TO EXERCISE THEIR SECTION 7 RIGHTS IS A COMPELLING REASON	
Т	O RECONSIDER THE APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL "BLOCKING" POLICY	
	O THE INSTANT CASE	9
*		
V	CONCLUSION	9
10 CO. 000	001102001011	

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

## CASES

General Shoe Corp., 77 NLRB 124, 127 (1948)	. 5
Mark Burnett Prods. & Stephen R. Frederick, 349 NLRB 706, 706 (2004)	6
MV Transportation, 337 NLRB 770, 772 (2002)	8
New Process Steel, L.P. v. NLRB, 130 S. Ct. 2635 (June 17, 2010)	. 7
Sequoias Portola, 354 NLRB No. 74 (Aug. 31, 2009)	7
Sequoias Portola, 354 NLRB No. 74, at Slip. Op. 1-2	8
SFO Good-Nite Inn, LLC, 357 NLRB No. 16, n.22 (July 19, 2011)	5
U.S. Coal Co., 3 NLRB 398, 398 (1937)	5
UGL-UNICCO Service Company & Area Trades Council, 357 NLRB No. 76 (August 26, 2011)	8
Wellington Industries, Inc., 359 NLRB No. 18 (November 6, 2012)	7
Other Authorities	
NLRB Case Handling Manual, Part 1, Section 11731.2	6
NLRB Casehandling Manual, Part Two, Representation Proceedings, Sec. 11730, et seg	4

### I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Section 102.71(b) of the National Labor Relations Board's ("NLRB" or "Board") Rules and Regulations, MasTec North America, Inc. ("MasTec," the "Company" or the "Employer"), submits this Request for Review of the Regional Director's June 20, 2014 decision (the "Decision") to defer processing the decertification petition (the "Decertification Petition" or the "Petition") in the instant case pending the adjudication of Case No. 34-CA-090246 alleging that certain provisions of the Employer's handbook violate Section 8(a)(1) of the Act.

By holding the Decertification Petition in abeyance pending resolution of this particular unfair labor practice charge which challenges only the facial validity of a limited number of policies and which involves no issue of enforcement or actual interference with the Section 7 rights of unit employees – the Regional Director has again disenfranchised unit employees who have made known their desire to decertify the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 488, AFL-CIO ("Local 488" or "the Union") as their collective-bargaining representative. Review of the Decision is appropriate because the Regional Director once again departed from well-established Board precedent and applicable law. Moreover, the disenfranchisement of unit employees raises a substantial question of law and policy because the Regional Director's decision is inconsistent with the policy of the National Labor Relations Act of ensuring the protection and promotion of employee freedom of choice with respect to the decision whether or not to be represented by a union for purposes of collective bargaining. In addition, review of the Decision is appropriate because the unit employees' entitlement to the processing of their petition is a compelling reason for the Board to reconsider the application of

the general "blocking" policy of holding in abeyance representation petitions where an unfair labor practice charge that affects the unit is pending under the aforementioned circumstances.

### II. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On or about June 17, 2014, employee, Miguel R. Vargas, employed by the Employer and represented by the Union, filed a Decertification Petition, Case No. 01-RD-130917. (See Exhibit A.) This is the second decertification petition filed by employees at this facility in the last 14 months.<sup>1</sup>

On or about June 17, 2014, the Regional Director sent notice to the parties that a representation hearing would be held on June 24, 2014 regarding the instant Petition. (See Exhibit B.) On or about June 20, 2014, the Regional Director, through Officer-In-Charge Michael C. Cass, notified the parties that "pursuant to Agency policy, the petition is being held in abeyance pending investigation of the unfair labor practice charge filed in Case No. 34-CA-090246. Accordingly, the hearing scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2014, has been postponed indefinitely." (See Exhibit C.)

The unfair labor practice charge referenced in Mr. Cass's letter, Case No. 34-CA-090246, was filed by the Union on October 2, 2012, and amended on November 21, 2012. (See Exhibit D.) The amended charge alleged the Employer violated Section 8(a)(1) by maintaining overly broad work rules and policies in its Employee Handbook, regarding employment at-will, collective action arbitration waiver, surreptitious tape recording, use of derogatory and demeaning language, and the disclosure of confidential information. On October 24, 2012, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A prior petition for decertification was filed on April 22, 2013, by employee John Murray. On or about April 23, 2013, the Regional Director issued a decision holding the petition (Case No. 01-RD-103288) in abeyance until resolution of the unfair labor practice charge in Case No. 34-CA-090246. This is the same charge that is being used to block the current Petition from being processed. On May 6, 2013, the Employer submitted a request for review of the decision of the Regional Director to hold the Petition in abeyance. As of this submission, the Board has still not ruled on the original request for review.

Employer submitted a Position Statement denying the allegation that the policies are overbroad and averring the rules do not reasonably tend to chill employees in the exercise of their Section 7 rights and are lawful. Subsequently, Region 34 transferred the case to the Board's Division of Advice. On or about April 24, 2013, the parties were notified that the Division of Advice had decided to dismiss the allegations regarding the confidentiality and at-will policies, but absent settlement, to issue a complaint regarding the class action arbitration waiver, the tape recording policy, and the derogatory language policy. (See ExhibitE.) In addition, at that time, Board Field Examiner A. Heather Williams notified the parties that the first petition would not be processed until the charge is settled or until an administrative law judge issues an opinion in the case. On June 19, 2014, the Employer and Union submitted a Joint Motion and Stipulation of Fact regarding the unfair labor practice charge. (See Exhibit F.) No briefing schedule has yet been set by the Board.

Pursuant to Section 102.71(b) of the Board's Rules and Regulations, a request for review of a Regional Director's actions may be granted on the grounds "[t]hat a substantial question of law or policy is raised because of (i) the absence of, or (ii) a departure from, officially reported Board precedent" and/or "[t]here are compelling reasons for reconsideration of an important Board rule or policy." In this case, the Regional Director again departed from Board policy of permitting representation petitions to proceed despite the presence of concurrently pending unfair labor practice charges where the underlying charge, if true, would not so chill employee's Section 7 rights so as to have a significant effect on employee free choice. In addition, there are compelling reasons in this case for reconsideration of the Regional Director's application of the general "blocking" policy of holding in abeyance representation petitions and elections where an unfair labor practice charge that affects the unit is pending. The

unit employees' entitlement to a hearing on the Decertification Petition is one such compelling reason. Accordingly, MasTec requests the Board direct the Region to proceed with a representation hearing on the current Decertification Petition.

In refusing to process this second Petition pending the resolution of a charge which merely alleges certain handbook policies maintained by the Employer are facially unlawful and in which there is no allegation, nor evidence, of enforcement of or discipline resulting from such policies<sup>2</sup>, the Regional Director misinterpreted prior Board decisions and misapplied the applicable standards regarding the Board's blocking charge policy. Furthermore, by continuing to delay the resolution of the petition "indefinitely" and effectively disenfranchising those employees who signed the Petition, the Regional Director deviated from the Board's policy of ensuring employees have a direct and substantial interest in their choice of representative.

#### III. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

Whether the Regional Director's conclusion that the instant Decertification Petition should be held in abeyance pending adjudication of Case No. 34-CA-090246 is contrary to established Board precedent and policy, thus requiring the Decision to be reversed and the processing of the Decertification Petition. The issue turns on whether the pending unfair labor practice charge alleges conduct which, if proven, would interfere with employee free choice in the election.

#### IV. ARGUMENT

## A. THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S DECISION TO HOLD THE DECERTIFICATION PETITION IN ABEYANCE PENDING

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  In fact, the Employer, the Union, and the General Counsel have stipulated that the challenged rules were not adopted in response to any union activity, have not been "applied in any manner to restrict Section 7 rights", and further that the Employer "has not by any other action led employees to believe the . . rules prohibit Section 7 activity. Exhibit F, Paragraphs 11 and 12.

## THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE CHARGE IS CONTRARY TO BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Under existing Board policies and precedent, the processing of representation petitions will be blocked if there are concurrent unfair labor practice charges alleging conduct which, if proven, would interfere with employee free choice in an election. Industries, Inc., 359 NLRB No. 18 (November 6, 2012), citing NLRB Casehandling Manual, Part Two, Representation Proceedings, Sec. 11730, et seq. The rationale is that the unfair labor practice charges, if true, would destroy the "laboratory conditions" necessary to permit employees to cast their ballots freely. See Mark Burnett Prods. & Stephen R. Frederick, 349 NLRB 706, 706 (2004), citing General Shoe Corp., 77 NLRB 124, 127 (1948). Thus, generally, unless the charging party requests the Board to proceed, the Board will decline to make representation determinations while unfair labor practice charges that affect the unit are pending. For example, pursuant to the Board's "blocking charge" rule, the Board has held in abeyance a decertification petition where charges were filed alleging the employer unlawfully participated in, or supported, the decertification campaign. See SFO Good-Nite Inn, LLC, 357 NLRB No. 16, n.22 (July 19, 2011), citing U.S. Coal Co., 3 NLRB 398, 398 (1937) (establishing policy of refusing to process representation petitions when related unfair labor practice charges are pending).

Various exceptions to the "blocking charge" rule have developed. The Board's Case Handling Manual specifically enumerates exceptions to the Board's general policy:

There may be situations where, in the absence of a request to proceed . . . the Regional Director is of the opinion that the employees could, under the circumstances, exercise their free choice in an election and that the R[epresentation] case should proceed notwithstanding the existence of a concurrent Type I or Type II unfair labor practice case and the absence of a request to proceed or a waiver.

**Factors**: The following are among the factors to be considered under this section.

- (a) The character, scope, and timing of the conduct alleged in the charge, and the conduct's tendency to impair the employees' free choice
- (b) The size of the work force relative to the number of employees involved in the events or affected by the conduct alleged in the charge
- (c) Whether the employees were bystanders to or the actual targets of the conduct alleged in the charge
- (d) The entitlement and interest of the employees in an expeditious expression of their preference regarding representation
- (e) The relationship of the charging parties to labor organizations involved in the representation case
- (f) The showing of interest, if any, presented in the R[epresentation] case by the charging party
- (g) The timing of the charge.

See NLRB Case Handling Manual, Part 1, Section 11731.2 "Free Choice Possible Notwithstanding Charge." In this case even assuming the Handbook policies are found to violate the Act<sup>3</sup>, such violations would not have a tendency to impair employee free choice. As previously stated, the charge in this case concerns only the facial validity of the polices, not the enforcement thereof and there is no significant threat to the ability of employees to cast a free and uncoerced vote. Indeed, if the Employer were to enforce these rules during the pendency of the instant representation case, assuming the validity of the Board's theory, objections to conduct affecting the results of the election or additional charges would sufficiently protect the rights of employees. However, to hold the ability of employees to participate in a secret ballot election hostage to the theoretical interference with Section 7 rights, for a second time, deprives

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Employer vigorously denies its policies are unlawful for the reasons set forth in its Position Statement filed in response to the ULP, and thus, the policies cannot interfere with employee free choice as a matter of law.

employees of their right to decide whether they wish to be represented by the Union, in contravention of the primary purpose of the Act<sup>4</sup>.

In addition, the present case, just as with the previous petition, is wholly unlike those cases in which the Board applied the Board's blocking charge policy and which involved allegations going to the existence of a question concerning representation, actions of the employer that undermined the Union, or actions of the employer that actually interfered with the Section 7 rights of employees. See Mark Burnett Prods. & Stephen R. Frederick, 349 NLRB 706 (2004) (allegations of unlawful withdrawal of recognition and refusal to sign contract); Wellington Industries, Inc., 359 NLRB No. 18 (November 6, 2012) (delay in processing deauthorization election appropriate based on unfair labor practice charges alleging unlawful refusal to bargain). These cases are clearly distinguishable from the present case. In those cases, the pending unfair labor practice charges, if proven, involved employer conduct that would have tended to have a direct effect on employees' representation choice. In contrast, in the instant case, the unfair labor practice charge alleges the facial validity of policies, not Employer conduct. Morever, the Union and the General Counsel have stipulated were not implemented in response to union activity, have not been applied in a manner to restrict any protected activity, and the Employer has done nothing to lead employees to believe the challenged rules prohibit Section 7 activity.

The Board has declined to hold representation petitions in abeyance pending the resolution of unfair labor practice charges, where the alleged unlawful conduct would not reasonably interfere with the ability of employees to cast an uncoerced vote. For example, in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> We note that the challenged handbook policies were in effect at the time of the 2012 vote resulting in the initial certification of Local 488, IBEW without any allegation that these rules interfered with the ability of eligible voters to cast uncoerced ballots. Nothing has changed as of the filing of the instant Petition warranting a different conclusion.

Sequoias Portola, 354 NLRB No. 74 (Aug. 31, 2009), abrogated on other grounds by New Process Steel, L.P. v. NLRB, 130 S. Ct. 2635 (June 17, 2010), the Board held an election should go forward where the pending unfair labor practice charge alleged that the petitioning union was dominated by another employer. Overruling the Regional Director's decision to hold the representation case in abeyance while he investigated the 8(a)(2) allegations, the Board wrote, "Allowing the unrelated employer-domination charge to block the representation petition here, before any such determination has been made with respect to either the Petitioner or the current Employer, delays, for an indeterminate, and possibly lengthy amount of time, the employees' opportunity to exercise their Section 7 rights. Therefore, we find that, in these circumstances, the better practice is to process the representation petition and leave the determination of the [unfair labor practice charge] to a later date when that allegation and its impact . . . is fully litigated in the unfair labor practice proceeding." Sequoias Portola, 354 NLRB No. 74, at Slip. Op. 1-2. Similarly, here, allowing the, essentially, unrelated charge to block the Decertification Petition will delay for an indeterminate and possibly lengthy time the employees' opportunity to exercise their Section 7 rights. As such, the Board should order the Petition to go forward.

To this point, the Regional Director's Decision in this case ignores the fundamental fact that even if the Board eventually finds the Employer violated the Act by maintaining the Handbook policies, such a violation does not rise to the level of conduct which would so significantly affect employee choice in the election as to justify essentially eliminating all employee choice of representation until the resolution of that charge. The policy considerations underlying the general Board policy of declining to make representation decisions while unfair labor practice charges that affect the unit are pending are not applicable, and the fundamental purpose of the Act – "the protection and promotion of employee freedom of choice

- choice with respect to the initial decision to engage in or refrain from collective bargaining, and choice regarding the selection of a bargaining representative," MV Transportation, 337 NLRB 770, 772 (2002), overruled on other grounds, <u>UGL-UNICCO Service Company & Area Trades Council</u>, 357 NLRB No. 76 (August 26, 2011) – must be recognized. The Regional Director's decision to the contrary ignores well-established precedent and is contrary to the Board's overarching policy to encourage and facilitate employees' ability to exercise their Section 7 rights. Accordingly, the Decision to hold the petition in abeyance should be overruled.

# B. THE ACT'S POLICY OF ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES' EMPLOYEES ABILITY TO EXERCISE THEIR SECTION 7 RIGHTS IS A COMPELLING REASON TO RECONSIDER THE APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL "BLOCKING" POLICY TO THE INSTANT CASE

Pursuant to Section 102.71(b)(2) of the Board's Rules and Regulations, the Board should grant the request for review of the Regional Director's actions because there are "compelling reasons for reconsideration of an important Board rule or policy." For all of the reasons stated above, MasTec's employees' entitlement to an election is a compelling reason for the Board to reconsider the Regional Director's application of the general "blocking" policy in the instant case. Here, the pending unfair labor practice charge, even if found to have merit, would not affect the employees' free choice in their representation case.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The Regional Director's Decision to hold the Decertification Petition in abeyance is inconsistent with established procedures in representation determinations, and the Board's general blocking policy should not be applied to this case.

**WHEREFORE**, for all of the foregoing reasons, the Employer respectfully requests that the Board:

- (1) Grant this Request for Review; and
- (2) Order the processing of the decertification petition filed in this matter.

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.

666 Third Avenue

29th Floor

New York, New York 10017

(212) 545-4000

(212) 972-3213 facsimile

Dated: June 26, 2014

New York, New York

By: Cric P. Simon

ATTORNEYS FOR EMPLOYER

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Employer's Request for Review of the Regional Director's Decision to Hold the Petition for Decertification in Abeyance was served upon the following for filing this 26th day of June 2014, via Federal Express overnight mail, postage prepaid:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 488, AFL-CIO 721 Main Street Monroe, CT 06468

Thomas Meiklejohn Livingston Adler Pulda Meilejohn & Kelly P.C. 557 Prospect Avenue Hartford, CT 06105

> Mr. Miguel R. Vargas 18 Lin Sal Street Windsor Locks, CT 06096

John S. Cotter Officer-In-Charge National Labor Relations Board SubRegion 34 450 Main Street Suite 410 Hartford, CT 06105

Eric P. Simon

# Exhibit A

INTERNET FORM NLRB-502

### UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

	FORM EXEMPT UNDER 44
DO NOT	WRITE IN THIS SPACE
Case No.	Date Filed
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PETITIO	Ν .		01	DD.	130917	Tin	ne 17,2014
INSTRUCTIONS: Submit an original of this Petition to the NL	RB Regional Offi	ce in the					
TOTAL TO THE STATE OF THE STATE							
The Petitioner alleges that the following droumstances exist and re  1. PURPOSE OF THIS PETITION (if box RC, RM, or RD is checked a statement following the description of the type of petition shall not be a statement following the description of the type of petition shall not be RC-CERTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE. A substantial Petitioner desires to be certified as representative of the emp RM-REPRESENTATION (REMPLOYER PETITION). One or representative of employees of Petitioner.    RO-DECERTIFICATION (REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVE representative is no longer their representative.   UD-WITHDRAWAL OF UNION SHOP AUTHORITY (REMOVICE overed by an agreement between their employer and a labout UC-UNIT CLARIFICATION- A labor organization is currently (Check one)   In unit not previously certified.   In unit and the statement describing the specific amendment sought.   AC-AMENOMENT OF CERTIFICATION- Petitioner seeks an Attach statement describing the specific amendment sought.   Remove the statement describing the specific amendment sought.	equests that the NE and a charge under se deemed made.) of the new deemed made. It is not the new deemed made. It is not the new deemed made. It is not the new deemed made in the new deemed the new deemed to see the new	RB proce Section 8 (Check Or (Check	ed under its p (b)(7) of the Ac ne) to be represe inizations have f employees a AY DUES) - T h authority be I Pelitioner see No. ed in Case No itact )	oroper a ct has be ented fo e presen assert ti Thirty per rescinde eks clar	uthority pursu- een filed involving r purposes of co- ted a claim to a that the certified recent (30%) or ed.	ant to Secting the Empolective based or current of common of emement of common of ememory of eme	fion 9 of the NLRA.  ployer named herein, the  argaining by Petikoner and  to be recognized as the  antly recognized bargaining  aployees in a bargaining unit  ertain employees;
5. Unit Involved (In UC petition, describe present bargaining unit and		11.22		72		6a, Numi	per of Employees in Unit:
Included All full-time and regular part-time field technicians and field wareho East Hartford, CT facility. Excluded Office clerical employees and guards, professional employees and	d supervisors as de	efined in t	he Act.	he Emp	loyer at its	6b. Is this p	(By UC/AC)  Delition supported by 30% or more of the line the unit? ✓ Yes ☐ No
(If you have checked box RC in 1 above, check and complete EITHEI		lchever is	applicable)			'Not applica	able in RM, UC, and AC
7a. Request for recognition as Bargaining Representative was recognition on or about (Date)  7b. Petitioner is currently recognized as Bargaining Representative was recognized or Certified Bargaining Agent (If none, so sfat International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 488, AFL-C Address  721 Main Street  Monroe, CT 06468  9. Expiration Date of Current Contract. If any (Month, Day, Year)  100 Current Contract	(If no relative and desires center)	Tel. No. 203-Cell No. ui have ch	452-7679 ecked box UD	in 1 abo	Fax No. 203-459-2 ove, show here	2553	ertification unknown  e-Mail
11a. Is there now a strike or picketing at the Employer's establishmen		Communication of the Communica			Day and Year) many employee	s are partie	cinatina?
Involved? Yes No V				········			
organization, of (Insert Address)	v	16 0000000000000000000000000000000		SI	Ince (Month, Da	ıv, Year)	, a labor
Organizations or individuals other than Pelitioner (and other than and individuals known to have a representative interest in any employed Name	those named in item ees in unit describe Address	d in item 6	ic), which have above. (If no	ve claim one, so t Tel. i	ed recognition state)		Fax No.
13. Full name of party filing petillion (If labor organization, give full name	ne, including local n	eme and	number)	Cell	NO.		e-Mail
Miguel R. Vargas				#=(*=====			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
14e. Address (street and number, city, state, and ZIP code) 18 Lin Sal Street		765		Tel. No. )-221-	EXT 5643	14c. Fa.	x No,
Windsor Locks, CT 06096			14d. (	Cell No. 0-221		14e. e-	Mail vman17vargas@aol.com
15. Full name of national or international labor organization of which F	etitioner is an affilia	ite or cons	stituent (to be i	filled in v	vhen pelilion is	filed by a	labor organization)
I declare that I have read the above pelition and that the stateme	ents are true to the	best of	gry-knowledg	e and b	pelief,		
Name ( <i>Print</i> ) Miguel R. Vargas	Signatu	W.	Vn'			fille <i>(il any,</i> an individ	
Address (street and number, city, state, and ZIP code) 18 Lin Sal Street	ý		BKN0 860-	-221-5	643	ax No.	
Windsor Locks, CT 06096	/		Mel Ho - 860-	-221-5	643	Mail vmar	17/vargas@aol.com

WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS PETITION CAN BE PUNISHED BY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT (U.S. CODE, TITLE 18, SECTION 1001)

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Solicitation of the information on this form is authorized by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. § 151 et seq. The principal use of the information is to assist the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in processing unfair labor practice and related proceedings or litigation. The routine uses for the information are fully set forth in the Federal Register, 71 Fed. Reg. 74942-43 (Dec. 13, 2006). The NLRB will further explain these uses upon request. Disclosure of this information to the NLRB is voluntary; however, failure to supply the information will cause the NLRB to decline to invoke its processes.

## Exhibit B



### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD SUBREGION 34



MAS TEC NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Employer

and

MIGUEL R. VARGAS, AN INDIVIDUAL

Petitioner

Case 01-RD-130917

and

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 488, AFL-CIO

Union

## NOTICE OF REPRESENTATION HEARING

The Petitioner filed the attached petition pursuant to Section 9(c) of the National Labor Relations Act. It appears that a question affecting commerce exists as to whether the employees in the unit described in the petition wish to be represented by a collective-bargaining representative as defined in Section 9(a) of the Act.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that, pursuant to Sections 3(b) and 9(c) of the Act, at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 and on consecutive days thereafter until concluded, at the National Labor Relations Board offices located at the A.A. Ribicoff Federal Building, 450 Main Street Suite 410, Hartford, Connecticut, a hearing will be conducted before a hearing officer of the National Labor Relations Board. At the hearing, the parties will have the right to appear in person or otherwise, and give testimony. Form NLRB-4669, Statement of Standard Procedures in Formal Hearings Held Before The National Labor Relations Board Pursuant to Petitions Filed Under Section 9 of The National Labor Relations Act, is attached.

Dated: June 17, 2014

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SUBREGION 34

INTERNET FORM NURB-502

## UNITED. . ATES GOVERNMENT NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

DONOT	WRITE IN THIS SPACE
Case No	Date Filed
01-RD-130917	June 17,2014

(2-08) PETIT	ION		04 00	130917	Tun	e 17,2014
INSTRUCTIONS: Submit an original of this Petition to the	NLRB Regional Office	e in the Region	in which th	e employer cor		
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PURPOSE OF THIS PETITION (if box RC, RM, or RD is checks statement following the description of the type of petition shall in RC-CERTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE - A substained through the petitioner desires to be certified as representative of the experiments.)	ed and a charge under S of be deemed made) ( ntial number of employe employees	Section 8(b)(7) of t Check One) ses wish to be re	the Act has be presented for	een filed involving ir purposes of col	the Emp	loyer named herein, the rgaining by Petitioner and
RM-REPRESENTATION (EMPLOYER PETITION) - One representative of employees of Petitioner.  RD-DECERTIFICATION (REMOVAL OF REPRESENTA representative is no tonger their representative.  UD-WITHDRAWAL OF UNION SHOP AUTHORITY (REcovered by an agreement between their employer and a legislation of the representation	TIVE) - A substantial n	umber of employ	vees assert t S) - Thirty pe	hat the certified	or currer	ntly recognized bargaining
UC-UNIT CLARIFICATION- A labor organization is curre (Check one)  In unit not previously certified  In ac-AMENDMENT OF CERTIFICATION- Petitioner seek	nily recognized by Emp n unit previously certified is amendment of certification	loyer, but Petition I in Case No	er seeks clai	rification of places	ment of ce	ertain employees
Attach statement describing the specific amendment sove	ght				(.	
2. Name of Employer Mas Tec North America, Inc.	Employer Representati Dimas Medelro			- 25	el. No 716-71	3-9113
3 Address(es) of Establishment(s) involved (Street and number, of					ax No	
91 Prestige Park Circle, East Hartford, CT 06108	TO A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF					
4a Type of Establishment (Factory, mine, wholesaler, etc.)	1	4b. Identify princip	pal product of	service (	Cell No	
satellite installation and repair				(	e-Mail	
5 Unit involved (In UC petition, describe present bargaining unit	and attach description o	f proposed clanfic	etion)		Sa. Numb	er of Employees in Unit
Included All full-time and regular part-time field technicians and field wa	rehouse personnel em	ployees employe	d by the Em	oloyer at its	Present 75	
East Hartford, CT facility. Excluded Office clerical employees and guards, professional employees	and supervisors as de	fined in the Act.			6b is this p	(By UC/AC) hebton supported by 30% or more of the in the unit?"   ▼ Yes No
(If you have checked box RC in 1 above, check and complete EI)	HER item 7a or 7b, whi	chever is applicat	ile)		'Not applica	ble in RM, UC, and AC
7a Request for recognition as Bargaining Representative	was made on (Dale)	eply received, so	state)		·	and Employer declined
7b. Pelitioner is currently recognized as Bargaining Repres	sentative and desires ce	rtification under th	ne Act	Affiliation		
8 Name of Recognized or Certified Bargaining Agent (If none, so International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 488, AF				Villianoti		
Address	2-010	Tel No		Date of Recogn	ution or Co	ertification unknown
721 Main Street 203-452-7679 Fax No						e-Mail
Monroe, CT 06468	Lio W.	Cell No have checked b	av UD to 1 ok	203-459-2	F 545	f avecution of
9 Expiration Date of Current Contract If any (Month, Day, Year) no current contract	agreemė	nt granting union	shop (Month,	Day and Year)	ila nara di	execcitori o
11a Is there now a strike or picketing at the Employer's establish tovolved? Yes No 🗸	menl(s)	11b If so, approx	ximately how	many employees	are partic	cipaling?
11c The Employer has been picketed by or on behalf of (Insert Norganization, of (Insert Address)	'ame)			Since (Month, Da	y, Year)	, a labor
12 Organizations or individuals other than Petitioner (and other than dindividuals known to have a representative interest in any em	han those named in iten ployees in unit describe	ns 8 and 11c), whi d in item 5 above	ich have clair (If none, so	ned recognition a state)	s represe	
Name	Address		Tel	No		Fax No
				l No	*	e-Mail
13 Full name of party filing petition (If labor organization, give ful Miguel R. Vargas	I name, including local n	ame and number	) [14b Tel No	EXT	140 Fa	y No
14a Address (street and number, city, state, and ZIP code) 18 Lin Sal Street			860-221			
Windsor Locks, CT 06096  15. Full name of national or international labor organization of wh	ich Dahlinner is an effilie	te or constituent	14d Cell No 860-221	-5643		Mail yman17vargas@aol.com
<b>*</b>			`			
I declare that I have read the above petition and that the sta		heatpl my kno	viedge and	bellef.	illa de a	
Name (Print) Miguel R. Vargas	Signa	LLY	<u>'</u>		ille (if any an individ	
Address (street and number, city, state, and ZIP code) 18 Lin Sal Street	$\rangle$	Texno	860-221-	5643 F	ax No	n17vargas@aol.com
Windsor Locks, CT 06096	ON CAN DE DIME		860-221	0040	12.250.00000	

WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS PETITION CAN BE PUNISHED BY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT (U.S. CODE, TITLE 18, SECTION 1001)
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT
Solicitation of the Information on this form is authorized by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. § 151 et seq. The principal use of the information is to assist the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in processing unfair labor practice and related proceedings or litigation. The routine uses for the information are fully set forth in the Federal Register, 71 Fed. Reg. 74942-43 (Dec. 13, 2008). The NLRB will further explain these uses upon request. Disclosure of this information to the NLRB is voluntary; however, failure to supply the information will cause the NLRB to decline to invoke its processes.

# Exhibit C



## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SUBREGION 34 450 MAIN ST STE 410 HARTFORD, CT 06103-3078

Agency Website: www.nlrb.gov Telephone: (860)240-3522 Fax: (860)240-3564

June 20, 2014

Mr. Miguel Vargas 18 Lin Sal Street Windsor Locks, CT 06096

Re:

MAS TEC NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Case 01-RD-130917

Dear Mr. Vargas:

This is to notify you that pursuant to Agency policy, the above-captioned petition is being held in abeyance pending processing of the unfair labor practice charge filed in Case No. 34-CA-090246. Accordingly, the hearing scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2014, has been postponed indefinitely.

Under the provisions of Section 102.71 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, a request for review of this decision to block the above-captioned petition may be filed with the National Labor Relations Board, addressed to the Executive Secretary, 1099 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20570, or electronically pursuant to the guidance that can be found under "Egov" on the Board's web site. This request must be received by the Board in Washington by July 3, 2014.

Very truly yours,

Michael C. Cass

Officer-In-Charge

cc:

Dimas Medeiros Mas Tec North America, Inc. 91 Prestige Park Circle East Hartford, CT 06108

Eric P. Simon, Esq. Jackson Lewis LLP 666 Third Avenue New York, NY 10017 International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers, Local 488, AFL-CIO 721 Main Street Monroe, CT 06468-1116

Thomas Meiklejohn
Livingston Adler Pulda Meiklejohn &
Kelly P.C.
557 Prospect Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105-2922

## Exhibit D

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Date: 11/21/12

Thomas W. Melklejohn

(alguative of representative or person making charge)

LAPMK, P.O., 657 Prospect Avenue, Hertford, CT 08105

WILLPUL FALSE STATEMENTS ON THIS CHARGE CAN BE PUNISHED BY PINE AND IMPRISONMENT (U.S. CODE, TITLE 18, SECTION, 1001)
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT
Solicitation of the information on this form is authorized by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. § 151 \*1.167. The principal use of the information for optional Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in processing unfair labor practice and related proceedings or Hilgallon. The ropting cases for the information are fully set forth in the Federal Register, 71 Fed. Reg. 74942-43 (Des. 13, 2006). The NLRB will further explain there exist upon request. Displaying the information will cause the NLRB to decline to Avoke its processes.

(880) 233-8821 Office, If any, Oal No.

Fax No. 860-232-7618

twme.klejohn@lepm.org

8-Mall

# Exhibit E

From: Williams, A. Heather [mailto:AHeather.Williams@nlrb.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 10:21 AM

To: Simon, Eric P. (NYC)

Subject: Mas Tec 34-CA-090246 Advice follow-up

Dear Eric:

I hear from your secretary that you are in Buffalo today. I hope you plan on stopping by the Anchor Barl

As you know, Advice has gotten back to us on 34-CA-090246 Mas Tec.

Advice has concluded that the following rules violate Section 8(a)(1):

- a dispute resolution policy prohibiting employees from arbitrating disputes as a class
- · a policy prohibiting the recording of conversations at work
- prohibition on the "use of abusive, threatening or derogatory language towards employees, customers, or management"

Advice has concluded that the following rules are not a violation:

- · policy prohibiting employees from disclosing confidential information
- . an at-will employment clause that can only be modified by the Chief Executive Officer and Group President,

The Region Intends to Issue complaint at the end of this month unless we receive word that the Employer is amenable to considering settlement. Please also be advised that the decision from Advice is also blocking the recently filed decertification petition. That petition will not be processed until this case is either settled or until we have an ALI's decision.

Please call me at your earliest convenience.

All the best,

A. HEATHER WILLIAMS
FIELD EXAMINER
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
SUB-REGION 34, HARTFORD
PH: 860-240-3545
FAX: 860-240-3564
HTTP://WWW.NLRB.GOV

## Exhibit F

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD REGION 01 - SUBREGION 34

MASTEC NORTH AMERICA, INC.1

and

Case 34-CA-090246

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 488, AFL-CIO

### JOINT MOTION AND STIPULATION OF FACTS

This is a joint motion by the parties to this case, Mastec North America, Inc. (Respondent); the Charging Party, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 488, AFL-CIO (the Union); and the General Counsel, to transfer this case to the Board pursuant to Section 102.35(a)(9) of the Board's Rules and Regulations. The transfer of the case will effectuate the purposes of the Act and avoid unnecessary costs and delay.

If this motion is granted, the parties agree to the following:

- The record in this case consists of the charge, amended charge, and second amended charge in Case 34-CA-090246, the Complaint, the Answer, an Order Postponing the Hearing Indefinitely, the Stipulation of Facts, the Statement of Issues Presented, and each party's Statement of Position.
- This case is submitted directly to the Board for issuance of findings of facts, conclusions of law, and an Order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The correct name of the Respondent is Mastec, North America, Inc.

- The parties waive a hearing, findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommended order by an Administrative Law Judge.
- The Board should set the time for the filing of briefs.

## I. STIPULATION OF FACTS

- (a) The charge in Case 34-CA-090246 was filed by the Union on September 28, 2012. (A copy of the charge and affidavit of service are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B, respectively.)
- (b) The amended charge in this case was filed by the Union on November 21, 2012. (A copy of the amended charge and affidavit of service are attached hereto as Exhibits C and D, respectively.)
- (c) The second amended charge in this case was filed by the Union on May 9, 2013. (A copy of the second amended charge and affidavit of service are attached hereto as Exhibits E and F, respectively.)
- 2. (a) On May 23, 2013, the Regional Director for Region One of the Board issued a Complaint and Notice of Hearing (the Complaint) alleging that Respondent violated the National Labor Relations Act (the Act). On June 24, 2013, the Regional Director issued an Order Postponing Hearing Indefinitely (the Order). (A copy of Complaint and Order are attached hereto as Exhibits G and H, respectively.)
- (b) On June 6, 2013, Respondent filed a timely Answer to the Complaint, denying that it had committed any violation of the Act. (A copy of the Answer to the Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit I.)
- Respondent, a corporation with offices and places of business in East
   Hartford and Durham, Connecticut, has been engaged in the installation of satellite

television services. During the 12-month period ending April 30, 2013, Respondent derived gross revenues in excess of \$500,000, and sold and shipped from its Connecticut facilities goods valued in excess of \$50,000 directly to points located outside the State of Connecticut. At all material times, Respondent has been an employer engaged in commerce within the meaning of Section 2(2), (6) and (7) of the Act.

- 4. The Union is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act.
- 5. From October 8, 2011 to September 28, 2012, David Presley was Respondent's Durham, Connecticut Site Manager and was a supervisor within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Act, and an agent of Respondent within the meaning of Section 2(13) of the Act. From November 13, 2012 to present, Stephen Wint has been Respondent's Durham, Connecticut Site Manager and has been a supervisor within the meaning of Section 2(11) of the Act, and an agent of Respondent within the meaning of Section 2(13) of the Act.
- 6. The following employees of Respondent (the Unit) constitute a unit appropriate for the purposes of collective bargaining within the meaning of Section 9(b) of the Act:

All full-time and regular part-time field technician and field warehouse personnel employed by Respondent at its Durham, Connecticut facility; but excluding all other employees, office clerical employees and guards, professional employees and supervisors as defined in the Act.

- 7. On April 20, 2012, the Union was certified by the Board as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of the Unit. Respondent and the Union have been negotiating since then for an initial collective-bargaining agreement.
- 8. (a) At all material times, Respondent has maintained, and continues to maintain with respect to employees in the Unit described above in paragraph 6, an "Employee Handbook and Policies and Procedures" (the Handbook), last revised in June 2007. Each of Respondent's employees is provided with a copy of the Handbook at the time of hire. The cover page includes a line for the employee's signature, and the last page includes an acknowledgement of receipt of the Handbook.
  - (b) The Handbook includes the following provisions:
  - (1) Dispute Resolution Policy, referenced in three sections of the Handbook: the Foreword, the Dispute Resolution Policy section, and the Employment Acknowledgement section (copy attached hereto as Exhibit J);
    - (2) Tape Recording Policy (copy attached hereto as Exhibit K); and
  - (3) Use of Derogatory Language policy, which appears in a list of 14 "forms of behavior that are considered unacceptable in the workplace" and that "may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, demotion, or termination of employment" (copy attached hereto as Exhibit L).
  - 9. The Handbook, including the rules described above in paragraph 8(b), was applied and enforced at all Mastec's locations throughout the United States through January 31, 2013.
  - 10. Effective February 1, 2013, Mastec issued a new handbook in all locations throughout the United States other than its Durham, Connecticut location. The

February 1, 2013 handbook replaced the rule prohibiting the "use of abusive, threatening or derogatory language towards employees, customers or management" with a prohibition on "Exhibiting violent behavior, including threatening or intimidating language; any form of physical assault; or possessing weapons on or in company property."

- 11. The foregoing rules were not promulgated in response to union activity or applied in any manner to restrict Section 7 rights.
- 12. Respondent has not by any other actions, led employees to believe that the foregoing rules prohibit Section 7 activity.
- 13. Respondent has not by any other actions, led employees to believe that the foregoing rules prohibit Section 7 activity.

## II. ISSUE PRESENTED

Whether Respondent violated Section 8(a)(1) of the Act by maintaining the rules and policies described above in paragraph 8 and attached hereto as Exhibits J, K, and L.

## III. POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

## A. General Counsel's Position

The General Counsel contends that the cited Handbook provisions are overly broad and have a reasonable tendency to interfere with, restrain, and coerce employees in their exercise of the rights guaranteed in Section 7 of the Act.

First, the Dispute Resolution Policy violates Section 8(a)(1) of the Act because, by prohibiting employees from arbitrating disputes as a class, it explicitly limits employees from exercising their Section 7 rights to commence and prosecute

employment-related legal actions in concert with other employees, or at least would be reasonably construed by employees to do so. Moreover, the opt-out provision described in the Handbook's Foreword does not affect the policy's unlawful interference with employees' right to file and participate in collective and class litigation.

Second, the Handbook's prohibition against recording conversations at work is overbroad because it would reasonably be interpreted to prevent employees from recording statements or conversations that involve Section 7 activities such as picketing, or recording evidence to be presented in administrative or judicial forums in employment-related matters.

employment-related matters.

Finally, the Handbook unlawfully prohibits the "use of abusive, threatening or derogatory language toward employees, customers or management." Employees derogatory language toward employees, customers or management." Employees would reasonably construe this rule as prohibiting Section 7 activity because, phrased in would reasonably construe this rule as prohibiting Section 7 activity because, phrased in would reasonably interpreted to prohibit protected conduct, or abusive. Because it could be reasonably interpreted to prohibit protected conduct, the rule is overbroad and violates Section 8(a)(1). Moreover, the rule appears in a list of the rule is overbroad and violates Section 8(a)(1). Moreover, the rule appears in a list of prohibited conduct ranging from possession of firearms to rudeness. While some of the prohibited conduct is serious, others are relatively minor, supporting a conclusion that prohibited conduct is serious, others are relatively minor, supporting a conclusion 7 the Derogatory Language rule may be reasonably construed to prohibit Section 7 activity.

Because the Handbook applies to employees at Mastec's facilities throughout the United States, the General Counsel seeks a nationwide remedy for the unfair labor practices. Specifically, the General Counsel seeks rescission of the above-described practices, as well as a Notice posting, at all Mastec facilities.

#### Respondent's Position B.

Respondent asserts its Dispute Resolution Policy is lawful because the class action waiver contained therein and requirement that certain employment related disputes be arbitrated on an individual basis simply does not interfere with the Section 7 rights of employees. As explained by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in D.R. Horton, Incorporated v. National Labor Relations Board (No. 12-60031, December 3, 2012), and cases cited therein, all of which have rejected the Board's analysis in D.R. Horton, Inc., 357 N.L.R.B. No. 184 (2012), such restrictions in an arbitration agreement are sanctioned by the Federal Arbitration Act and the NLRA does not trump the FAA with respect to the enforceability such requirements. Further, the provisions of the DRP requiring the arbitration of employment related disputes are distinguishable from those the Board has found unlawful because it allows employees to opt out of the policy. Because it is voluntary, Respondent's policy is not a condition of employment, and therefore does not infringe on employees' Section 7 rights.

Respondent contends its Tape Recording policy is similar to those that the Board has found lawful. In particular, Respondent notes that the policy on its face states that its purpose is to "eliminate a chilling effect on the expression of views that may exist when one person is concerned that his or her conversation with another is being secretly recorded." Because Respondent has legitimate and clearly articulated business reasons for the policy, and there is no inherent right protected by the NLRA to make recordings, it would be unreasonable for employees to interpret it as interfering with protected conduct.

Similarly, Respondent takes the position that the Derogatory Language policy cannot be reasonably construed as prohibiting Section 7 activity and the rule is clearly Intended to foster a civil workplace. Moreover, Respondent takes the position that employees would construe the rule in the context of the surrounding language, which prohibits other egregious behavior, rather than as a prohibition of protected speech.

Finally, the Tape Recording Policy and Derogatory Language policy were not promulgated in response to any union activity and have never been applied or enforced in a manner to interfere with any employee's Section 7 rights. Nor has Respondent engaged in any other conduct that would reasonably cause employees to believe the rules were intended to interfere with Section 7 activity. Consequently, there is no reason at all for any employee to believe these rules would restrict their Section 7 rights. Because Mastec deleted the work rule prohibiting the "use of abusive, threatening or derogatory language towards employees, customers or management" as of February 1, 2013 in all locations other than Mastec's Durham, Connecticut location, assuming arguendo such rule is deemed unlawful, the issue is moot as to all locations other than Durham, Connecticut and therefore, a remedy requiring the rescission of such rule in locations other than Durham, Connecticut and a nation-wide posting with respect to such rule is inappropriate and unnecessary to effectuate the policies of the Act.

Respondent hereby withdraws its affirmative defense based on the absence of a quorum of the National Labor Relations Board.

#### Union's Position C.

The Union concurs with the General Counsel's position.

This stipulation is made without prejudice to any objection that any party may have as to the relevance of any facts stated herein.

### MASTEC NORTH AMERICA, INC.

Respondent

By: /s/ Eric P. Simon

Eric P. Simon, Attorney
Jackson Lewis, LLP
666 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue
29<sup>th</sup> Floor
New York, NY 10017
Telephone 212-545-4014

## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 488, AFL-CIO

**Charging Party** 

By: /s/ Thomas W. Meiklejohn
Thomas W. Meiklejohn, Attorney
557 Prospect Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105
Telephone 860-570-4639

By: /s/ Elizabeth A. Vorro

Elizabeth A. Vorro
Counsel for the General Counsel
National Labor Relations Board, Region One
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building
Sixth Floor
10 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02222
Telephone 401-298-0186

This stipulation is made without prejudice to any objection that any party may have as to the relevance of any facts stated herein.

MAST	EC	NORTH	AMERI	CA,	INC.
					1000

Respondent

90.

Eric P. Simon, Attorney Jackson Lewis, LLP 666 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10017 Telephone 212-545-4014

## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 488, AFL-CIO

Charging Party

Ву:			
~ j .	 ,	 	

Thomas W. Meiklejohn, Attorney 557 Prospect Avenue Hartford, CT 06105 Telephoné/860-570-4639

RW

Elizabeth A. Vorro

Counsel for the General Counsel

National Labor Relations Board, Region 01

Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, Sixth Floor

Boston, MA 02222

Telephone 401-298-0186

This stipulation is made without prejudice to any objection that any party may have as to the relevance of any facts stated herein.

## MASTEC NORTH AMERICA, INC. Respondent

Ву;

Eric P. Simon, Attorney Jackson Lewis, LLP 666 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10017 Telephone 212-545-4014

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL 488, AFL-CIO

Charging Party

Thomas W. Meiklejohn, Attorney

557 Prospect Avenue Hartford, CT 06105

Telephone 860-570-4/539

Elizabeth A. Vorro

Counsel for the General Counsel

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Telephone 401-298-0186